

2004 Primary Election

The major parties will conduct a presidential primary so that voters of that party can indicate their choice for the party's presidential nominee. The major parties will also nominate candidates for the following offices:

- U.S. Senate (1 seat)
- Governor
- U.S. House of Representatives (all 9 seats)
- Indiana State Senate (Districts 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, 24, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40, 42, 44, 50)
- Indiana House of Representatives (all 100 seats)
- Judges of the circuit, superior, and county courts in several counties
- Clerks of the circuit court, County Auditor, County Recorder, County Treasurer, County Coroner, County Surveyor, County Assessor, County Commissioner, and County Council Member in several counties
- Town Council members, town clerk-treasurers, and town judges in towns which have chosen to stagger terms for town council members, or to elect all town officials during 2004
- State convention delegates (elected at the primary election)

Several jurisdictions will also elect non-partisan school board members at the primary election.

Some local public questions may be placed on the ballot in certain counties.

Voter Registration

The deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election is **April 5, 2004**. The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is **October 4, 2004**. Mail-in voter registration applications must be postmarked on or before **April 5** to be eligible to vote in the Primary Election. Mail-in applications must be postmarked on or before **October 4** in order to be eligible to vote in the General Election.

If you are unsure of whether or not you are registered or whether your registration application was approved, contact the county voter registration office in your county.

For more voter registration information see the Indiana Election Division's brochure *Questions and Answers About Voter Registration in Indiana*.

2004 General Election

Candidates are elected to the following offices at the General Election:

- Presidential electors pledged to support candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States
- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General and Superintendent of Public Instruction
- U.S. House of Representatives (all 9 seats)
- Indiana State Senate (25 of the 50 seats)
- Indiana House of Representatives (all 100 seats)
- Judges of the circuit, superior and county courts in several counties
- Clerks of the circuit court, County Auditor, County Recorder, County Treasurer, County Sheriff, County Coroner, County Surveyor, County Assessor, County Commissioner, and County Council Member in several counties
- Town Council members, town clerk-treasurers, and town judges in towns which have chosen to stagger terms for town council members, or to elect all town officials during 2004
- Voters will vote on the ratification of proposed state constitutional amendments, the retention of state appellate judges or local judges, and on any local public question placed on the ballot in accordance with state law.

Several jurisdictions will also elect non-partisan school board members at the general election.

Voter Eligibility

You are qualified to vote in the 2004 Primary and General Elections if you:

- Are a citizen of the United States.
- Are at least 18 years old on or before November 2, 2004. *(If you are not 18 years old by May 4, 2004 but turn 18 before November 2, 2004, you may vote in the Primary Election to nominate General Election candidates. Note: you may not vote for candidates elected or issues decided at the Primary Election.)*
- Reside in your precinct at least 29 days before the election in which you will be voting.
- Are not currently in prison after being convicted of a crime.
- Apply to register to vote at least 29 days before the election in which you will be voting, and your application is approved.

2004 Indiana Voter Information Guide



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**Primary Election Day
May 4, 2004**

**General Election Day
November 2, 2004**

Polls are open from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm,
prevailing local time.

Voting Procedures

Where to vote:

If you are unsure about where your **polling place** is located, call your county election board (usually at your county circuit court clerk's office). If you move after the voter registration deadline, please call your county election board to find out where you should vote.

How to vote at the polls:

Your county election board determines which type of state approved voting system will be used in your county. You may be voting by using a traditional paper ballot, a lever voting machine, a punch card voting system, an optically scanned ballot card voting system, or a computerized direct recording system.

Lever machines and punch card systems are being phased out between now and 2006.

Instructions on how to cast your ballot will be provided at your polling place, and explained to you by your polling place's poll workers.

Voting assistance:

If you need assistance in voting, you may choose someone to help you (other than your employer or union officer) or, if you do not choose someone to assist you, two poll workers (one of each major political party) will be available to assist you. No one who assists you may disclose any information about how you voted.

Polling Place Accessibility

Resources available for disabled voters:

State law requires that polling locations be accessible to disabled and elderly voters, and provide the same access for access and participation as for other voters. Polling places must meet accessibility standards for parking spaces; paths and entrances leading to the polling place; paths of travel within the building where the polling place is located; and the rooms or areas within the facility where the polling place is located.

If you believe that the polling place for your precinct does not comply with accessibility requirements, contact your county election board as soon as possible to inform them about this problem. It may be possible for the board to make temporary or permanent changes to the polling place to make it more accessible for all voters.

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting requirements:

You may vote by absentee ballot in Indiana if you are a registered voter of the precinct where you reside, and you wish to vote in person at the circuit court clerk's office.

If you wish to have your absentee ballot sent to you by mail or delivered to you by a traveling board, you must also meet the following requirements: You

- Will be absent from your county of residence on Election Day
- Are an election official
- Are confined on Election Day due to illness or injury
- Have disabilities
- Are 65 years of age or older
- Are a caretaker of an individual(s) confined to a private residence due to illness or injury
- Are scheduled to work for the entire 12 hours that the poll is open (6:00 am to 6:00 pm)

Absentee Voting Procedures

How to vote an absentee ballot in your county clerk's office:

If you are eligible to vote absentee, you may vote in your county clerk's office before Election Day. First, you must complete an absentee ballot application. Second, you must vote at your county clerk's office by noon the day before election day. Absentee voting in the clerk's office begins 29 days before the election, and will be available at least two Saturdays before Election Day.

How to vote absentee by mail:

If you are eligible to vote absentee, you may vote by mail. First, you must complete an absentee ballot application and return it to your county election board (at the clerk's office). Applications from most voters must be received, whether submitted by mail or FAX, at least 8 days before Election Day. (If you live in Marion County, are a confined voter, a voter caring for a confined individual, a military voter, or an overseas voter, there are special deadlines and requirements that apply. Please contact your county election board or county clerk for more information.)

When the county election board receives your application for a mail-in absentee ballot, they will process it and, if the application is approved, mail you an absentee ballot for the upcoming election. Your completed ballot may be returned by mail to the county election board. Your ballot may also be hand delivered by yourself, a member of your household, or your attorney in fact. However, it is a criminal violation of the election laws for any other person to deliver your voted absentee ballot. Ballots must be received by the county election board, at the clerk's office, in time to be processed for the election.

Provisional Ballot

What is a "provisional ballot"?

If you believe you are registered to vote in a precinct, but your name does not appear on the poll list, or if you have been challenged as not qualified to vote in your precinct, you will cast a "provisional ballot." A provisional ballot permits you to vote on election day. However, your provisional ballot will be kept separate from the other ballots cast in that precinct. After election day, the county election board will decide if you were qualified to vote in that precinct, and if your ballot should be counted. You will be able to contact your county election board to find out if your ballot was counted, and if not, why not.

Election Law Violations

It is a violation of Indiana law for an individual to intimidate a voter or to pay a voter to cast a ballot for or against any candidate; to tamper with an absentee or other voted ballot; or to disclose how another person cast their ballot. If you believe an election law has been violated, contact your county election board or county prosecuting attorney.